

Doc. No.: 1733

REPORT OF WITNESS

WITNESS STATEMENT (SIGNED) BY HEUNG, Chun-Ching

Though there were many witnesses who could testify to the Japanese massacre in Hankow after its fall in December 1937, not many actual facts could hardly be traced, due to the elapse of nine years since then and the terror and confusion at the time when these crimes were committed. However, I was myself one of the captives, and being lucky enough to escape alive, I hereby make the following statement concerning what I did see myself at that time:

1. On the ninth day of the eleventh month (lunar calendar), 1937, Japanese forces broke through the destroyed walls near Kuan-Hsin-Meng (gate) and closed on the Refugees' Zone. Two days later, Japanese began their search from house to house. Seeing that many weapons were left on the ground everywhere, they inferred that many soldiers must be hiding in that Refugees' Zone, thereby, without any consideration of international morality, they started massacre. Men, from 12 years old up to 40 years old, were all considered as National troops and therefore arrested. The number on that first day exceeded 2,000, including myself. They were marched from the Refugees' Zone to places along the river bank of Yangtze (namely, Bao-Ta Bridge, Shih-Su-Chung, Lao-Kiang-Kou, 'ao-Sho-Chia, Yen-Lao-Chi, and other places), in a rank of four and the whole column was one li (about one third of a mile) long. At midnight, Japanese slaughtered them all.

2. I and other seven captives, all wearing dresses that looked like laborers, were ordered to carry sacks and blankets of the Japanese soldiers, and stopped for the night at Shih-Su-Chung. The next morning, a Japanese Private by the name of MATSURI, Daitaro, native of Tokyo, told us through writing to get into a room, to strip off our clothing, and to be examined carefully. In case that any one of us should be found to be, physically speaking, like a soldier, he would immediately be killed by sword. Fortunately, we all went through, except one man, around 20 years old, a native of Kiang-Su, who screamed when interrogated and was killed on the spot. That Private warned us that would be such was accorded to the National troops and many thousands had already been machine-gunned.

3. The Japanese took one day rest, following the incident described in the preceding paragraph. On the next day, they marched eastward towards Lung-Tang and Tzu-Liang. We, five, were attached to five Japanese soldiers, including that Matsuri, all of them belonged to the 104th Unit. They threatened us with sword to find for them Chinese silk, pigs, chickens, cigarettes and etc. I told them nothing could be found either in the suburb or in the city, except the Refugees' Zone. Then, they marched us to the crossway at Shami Road and Ning-Hsi Road, where I told them this was the place where one could get all sorts of things. They immediately stopped to take or buy things, upon which, in the crowd, I escaped.

4. I saw many corpses all along the way from Sho-Kwang (on the bank of Yangtze River) to the City, also at many other places such as Ts-Pang-Hsiang, Tu-Tai-Shan, Ko-Lin-Shih, and near the hills, all killed by the Japanese.

5. On the campus of the Nanking University (at Tung-Kun-Shih) some ten thousand refugees were called into a meeting. A traitor by the name of Tsun-Pao-Kwang spoke on the platform, asked these National troops to raise their hands and promised or assured that there would be no danger. Some seven hundred raised their hands and were marched off to a prison at Shang-Sin-Ko where they were murdered.

6. The Chinese Red Cross at Nanking under its Chairman, Tao Si-San, who was then concurrently Chairman of the Local Whitehead Association, organized Burying Units which buried more than 60,000 corpses.

7. I personally suffered from Japanese wanton destructions, to viz, my house was burnt, including furnitures and everything. In addition, my family suffered severe insult which I would not disclose here.

The above Statement covers a general description only.

(Signed and Sealed) Kwang Chun Ching

DATE: April 7, 1946